organisation should have an dentity distinctly separate from the Central Government. The Committee has proposed that this organisation may be called "telecom operating authority".

4. It is proposed that the Central Government should be responsible for the functions which are common to all the service providers namely:

(i) Standardisation (ii) Reearch and development (iii) Preperation and monitoring of the development plans. (iv) Regulation and management of frequency spectrum. (v) Management of relations with International Bodies.

5. The Central Government should create a statutory authority to monitor and regulate the services and settle the disputes between the subscribers and the service provider, or between two service poviders This authority has been given the name "telecom regulatory authority" and its duties and responsibilities have been listed in the proposed Act.

6. In order to make the Act service oriented, the duties and responsibilities of the "service provider" and the "subscriber" have been listed in the proposed Act.

7 The section dealing with the rates for transmission of telecommunications within and outside India is proposed to be modified and factors to be kept in view while fixing these rates have been listed.

8 The section relating to settlement of disputes is proposed to have provision to deal with disputes between subscriber and the service provider and also the disputes between two service providers. The arbitrator is proposed to be appointed by the telecom regulating authority instead of the Central Government.

9. A modification in section dealing with fraudulent use of telecommunication system is proposed to widen it to include any person who dishonestly obtains telecommunication service with a view to avoid payment, and employee, helping him to do so.

10. A new section has been proposed to take care of the improper use of the telecommunication system by sending malicious and obscene telecommunications.

Negotiations with multinationals

*294. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been negotiatnig with certain multinationals for the purpose of placing orders with such multinationals which could agree on suppliers credit and accept deferred payments;

(b) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken by Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what is the present position

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) There is a proposal consideration of the Government to purchase recently validated switching systems from Indian Companies who have entered into collaboration with some multinationals to supply a few lakhs lines on deferred payments.

Bank Credit to Small Scale Industries

*295. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Hindu' dated the 12th June, 1993 regarding harsher lending practices by banks in respect of small scale industries leading to sickness;

(b) if so, what is the factual position; and